



**File Code:** 1920  
**Date:** March 21, 2017

Dear Interested Forest User,

This letter is notifying you of the changes to subset of monitoring questions created for the 2012 Monitoring Strategy. As is identified in our letter containing the Proposed Administrative Changes dated August 20, 2015, each forest plan monitoring program must contain one or more monitoring questions and associated indicators addressing each of the eight requirements of 36 CFR 219.12(a)(5) of the 2012 Planning Rule.

After a review of the existing questions during 2014 and 2015 Monitoring and Evaluation Report, it was determined that some changes to the 2012 Forest Plan Monitoring Strategy were needed. We strive to include relevant information gathered through project and activity monitoring, and information gathered through plan monitoring should be used to inform development of projects or activities. The initial letter dated 8/20/2015 notified the public of the proposed questions and provided the public an opportunity to comment on those proposed changes. The comment period ended on 9/25/2015 and one letter was received and did not propose any changes.

### **Approval of Administrative Change**

This Administrative Change is modification to monitoring elements found in Willamette National Forest 2012 Forest Plan Monitoring Strategy. The first most evident change was the addition of a number system to identify the each question in new monitoring strategy and an assignment of the responsible resource area. We retained most of the original questions of the original monitoring strategy that address the eight requirements and replaced a subset that better met our financial and technical capabilities. The changes are as follows:

- i. The status of select watershed conditions.**
  - a. One question measuring fish populations in the previous strategy was eliminated because stream habitat for fish is being monitored in other areas of the monitoring strategy.
  - b. One question on stream flows using Aggregated Recovery Percentage methodology was eliminated. ARP is no longer considered a valid measure of change to stream flows.
- ii. The status of select ecological conditions including key characteristics of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.**
  - a. One question on soil conditions was redundant and being addressed under viii.a in the new strategy.



- b. Question ii.c was clarified to note botanical species.
- iii. **The status of focal species to assess the ecological conditions required under §219.9.**  
No change.
- iv. **The status of a select set of the ecological conditions required under §219.9 to contribute to the recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species, conserve proposed and candidate species, and maintain a viable population of each species of conservation concern.**
  - a. iv.a was clarified to address ecological conditions for T&E fish habitat conditions as opposed to fish populations. This alteration also folded two of the original questions into iv.a.
- v. **The status of visitor use, visitor satisfaction, and progress toward meeting recreation objectives.**  
No change.
- vi. **Measurable changes on the plan area related to climate change and other stressors that may be affecting the plan area.**
  - a. vi.a has now been focused on the Regions methodology in tracking climate change. This change allows the forest, in sync with the region, in maintaining the latest changes to climate change methodology.
- vii. **Progress toward meeting the desired conditions and objectives in the plan, including for providing multiple use opportunities.**
  - a. A question on temperature and turbidity was a duplicate is now being addressed under i.b.
  - b. A question on the economic consequences of deviating from the original Forest Plan outputs was dropped because it did not inform development of projects or activities under the new planning regulations.
- viii. **The effects of each management system to determine that they do not substantially and permanently impair the productivity of the land (16 U.S.C. 1604(g)(3)(C)).**  
No change.

After considering the comments received on the proposed administrative change. I am approving the attached Administrative Change to the Willamette National Forest Plan.

If you have questions about this Administrative Change or would like more information, please contact Suzanne Schindler, Forest Planner (sschindler@fs.fed.us) or 541-225-6436.

Sincerely,



TRACY BECK  
Forest Supervisor

cc: Suzanne Schindler

Enclosure – Willamette National Forest 2012 Planning Rule Monitoring Program 2/10/2017